



Columbia River Shines Due to Clean Up of Tribal Fishing Sites

DECRM environmental auditors and the general public praise the conditions of tribal fishing sites owned by the BIA.



A traditional platform for dip net fishing at The Dalles dam in Oregon.

Thirty-one tribal fishing sites along the Columbia River in Washington and Oregon are being cleaned up and restored to environmentally safe conditions, according to a recent Environmental Management Audit Program (EMAP) for the Division of Environmental and Cultural Resources Management (DECRM).

The regularly scheduled EMAP audit in March looked at environmental conditions and activities at several of the 26 BIA-leased Treaty Fishing Access Sites (TFAS) and five In-Lieu Fishing Sites along the Columbia River, since they are BIA-owned land and buildings.

"The general public who has a view of the (Treaty Fishing Access) Sites from the highway actually pulled over to express their gratitude for getting these sites cleaned up," the EMAP report stated. The TFAS clean-up activities are conducted during the off-season when no one is actively using the site for fishing access.

However, the five In-Lieu Fishing Sites involve year-round housing which limits clean-up. Still, concerns about used oil and fishing equipment stored close to the banks of the Columbia River were noted by the EMAP auditors.



Fishing equipment accumulates along the banks of the Columbia River at the Cooks In-Lieu Fishing Site in Washington.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers built the TFAS bathrooms, drain fields, showers, pump houses, fish cleaning stations and water treatment systems as part of a memorandum of agreement with the BIA.



The Lyle TFAS in Washington.



The fish cleaning station at the Lone Pine In-Lieu Fishing Site in Oregon is reviewed by EMAP auditors.



EMAP Auditor John Frerich notes the condition of a fish cleaning station at the Faler Road TFAS in Oregon.